

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Patent Application of
Vancura

Group Art Unit:

Serial No.:

Examiner:

Filed: Herewith

For: KNOWLEDGE-BASED CASINO GAME
AND METHOD THEREFOR

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In the specification:

On page 1, line 3, insert:

-- 1. Related Application. This application claims priority to U.S. Application Serial No. 09/372,560, filed August 11, 1999 entitled "KNOWLEDGE-BASED CASINO GAME AND METHOD THEREFOR" which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/099,959 filed on September 11, 1998 entitled "KNOWLEDGE-BASED CASINO GAME AND METHOD THEREFOR" --.

On page 1, line 3, delete "1. Field of the Invention" and insert -- 2. Field of the Invention --.

One page 1, line 6, delete "2. Statement of the Problem" and insert -- 3. Statement of the Problem --.

In the claims:

Cancel claims 2, 4-7, 11-17, 20-23, 26-29, 34, 36-40, 44-46, 51-54, 57-58, 72, 74 without waiver or prejudice.

1. (amended) A method for playing a casino game comprising the steps of:
receiving a wager,
playing an underlying game of chance,
playing a knowledge-based bonus game using answers from a player in combination with the underlying game of chance, the combined knowledge-based bonus game with the underlying game of chance having a house advantage within a predetermined range.
9. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the knowledge-based bonus game has queries with answers and wherein the house advantage is at least a set limit based upon all answers to all queries in the knowledge-based bonus game are always correct.
10. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the knowledge-based bonus game has queries with answers and wherein the house advantage is at most a set limit based upon all answers to all queries in the knowledge-based bonus game are always guessed at.
42. (amended) A method for a casino game comprising the steps of:
providing a first game of chance,
providing a second knowledge-based game,
playing the first game of chance having a negative player's expected return,
stopping play of the first game,
playing the second knowledge-based game using answers from a player when the first game is stopped, the second knowledge-based game having a positive player's expected return.

REMARKS

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to give the below-listed attorney a call. If additional fees are required, please debit our Deposit Account No. 04-1414.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 6/6/01

By: 

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1. (amended) A method for playing a casino game comprising the steps of:
receiving a wager,
playing an underlying game of chance,
playing a knowledge-based bonus game using answers from a player in combination with the underlying game of chance, the combined knowledge-based bonus game with the underlying game of chance having a house advantage within a predetermined range.
9. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the knowledge-based bonus game has queries with answers and wherein the house advantage is at least a set limit based upon all answers to all queries in the knowledge-based bonus game are always correct.
10. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the knowledge-based bonus game has queries with answers and wherein the house advantage is at most a set limit based upon all answers to all queries in the knowledge-based bonus game are always guessed at.
42. (amended) A method for a casino game comprising the steps of:
providing a first game of chance,
providing a second knowledge-based game,
playing the first game of chance having a negative player's expected return,
stopping play of the first game,
playing the second knowledge-based game using answers from a player when the first game is stopped, the second knowledge-based game having a positive player's expected return.

Exhibit A